

August 13, 2009

Please find attached a press release from the office of Governor Rendell announcing his request for federal assistance from the Small Business Administration (SBA) for damage victims of last weekend's flooding. Even though the release only mentions Montgomery County, Congressman Sestak has gotten assurances from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) that if the SBA agrees to provide assistance, the assistance would extend to adjoining counties, including Delaware County.

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“This flooding has been hard on the residents affected and I am hopeful that need assistance is on the way,” said Congressman Sestak. “This serves as another example of why we need comprehensive, watershed-wide evaluation so that we can fix the problems in a systematic and lasting way,” said Congressman Sestak. “The current efforts of providing band aide fixes to problems as they are identified and needs to be improved upon to ensure the best use of tax payer dollars and the best protection for our neighbors.”□

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Congressman Sestak has acquired funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to do such a comprehensive study for the watersheds impacting the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District. Both the Army Corps and PADEP are working to get final approval to move ahead with the project, which is expected in the next few months.

Since last weekend, Congressman Sestak's staff has been in contact with Haverford Township officials, site of the worst flooding damage, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, and was Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships, with more than 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft, that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He previously served in the White House as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy. According to the office of the House Historian, he is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.